UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY

2025 REPORT

# Economic and Community Impact

## on Metro Detroit

Read more about Detroit Mercy at **udmercy.edu.**

4001 W. McNichols Road | Detroit, MI 48221-3038

University of Detroit Mercy exists to provide excellent student-centered undergraduate, graduate and professional education in an urban context with a spirit of hospitality and a focus on moving from compassion into action.

Our staff, faculty, administrators and students come from all faiths and backgrounds and are devoted to a holistic approach to education. Detroit Mercy offers degrees in 106 programs, including five-year master's and certificate programs. At the graduate level, the University offers 43 master's degree programs, one specialist program and nine doctoral/professional-level programs, including law, dentistry and optometry. Additionally, the University awards graduate certificates in 23 programs.

Detroit Mercy operates four campuses. The McNichols Campus is the largest and has been part of Northwest Detroit for nearly 100 years. The Corktown Campus on Jefferson Avenue in the heart of the city's thriving downtown is the home of Detroit Mercy Law. The School of Dentistry operates at the Corktown Campus on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and the Novi Campus on 12 Mile Road is home to the School of Optometry and some Nursing programs. Through partnerships, the University also offers programming in Grand Rapids on the Aquinas College campus, at Macomb Community College's University Center and at Oakland Community College's Southfield Campus.

*The Wall Street Journal*/College Pulse ranked UDM No. 43 on its 2025 list of best colleges and universities in the nation. This makes Detroit Mercy the second-highest ranked university in Michigan, the No. 2 Catholic university in the Midwest and sixth-highest ranked Catholic university in the country.

A 2022 Georgetown University study titled *A First Try at ROI: Ranking 4,500 Colleges* ranked Detroit Mercy No. 455 nationwide for salary earned over the 40-year length of a career.

In addition to that ranking, UDM ranked in the top 10.5% of all colleges for the 10-year salary rank. This means that younger graduates can expect to earn higher salaries than their counterparts who do not attend college.

*U.S. News & World Report's* influential rankings put Detroit Mercy among the top 200 colleges and universities in the nation and ranked it No. 28 in the Best Value Schools category.

In fall 2024, the University defied a national trend of lower enrollment by welcoming its largest first-year class since the 1990 consolidation of University of Detroit and Mercy College of Detroit established University of Detroit Mercy. In 2027, the University will celebrate 150 years of service to Detroit and its people.

University of Detroit Mercy has been named one of just 216 Research Universities by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, a designation that helps the University attract more students, highly qualified faculty and research grants.

# Economic Impact on Metro Detroit

University of Detroit Mercy has an estimated annual economic impact of more than **$344,840,000** on the metro Detroit community.

- The 2024-25 fiscal year operating budget totaled **$176 million.**
- Detroit Mercy employs **1,462 people**, including adjuncts faculty.
- Employee compensation for the 2024-25 fiscal year totaled **$114 million.**
- Detroit Mercy students contributed more than 16,000 volunteer hours to more than 100 metro Detroit community service agencies during fiscal year 2024-25.
- Detroit Mercy invested **$17 million** in renovations and new facilities projects on its campuses in fiscal year 2024-25.
- Approximately **$20 million** in contracts were awarded to metro Detroit vendors in the 2024-25 fiscal year.

## Business and Community Development Initiatives

In 2015, Detroit Mercy and The Kresge Foundation co-founded **Live6 Alliance** to strengthen the Livernois Avenue and McNichols Road commercial corridor as well as Northwest Detroit. The organization has undertaken a variety of revitalization strategies, including establishing the Live6 Community Advisory Board, collaborating with community organizations to plan events in the corridor, providing tours of the area to foundation representatives and others and holding workshops on neighborhood revitalization. UDM was also a member of the application team that proposed and received the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation Reimagining the Civic Commons Grant.

The **Detroit Collaborative Design Center (DCDC)** is a program of the **School of Architecture & Community Development (SACD)** that provides professional community-engaged design services to nonprofit community and civic organizations citywide. Over the years, DCDC has worked with partners on a range of projects, including designs for outdoor community landscapes, architectural design projects, neighborhood planning and citywide infrastructure and community engagement efforts. Notable projects have included design for a neighborhood resource center in Southwest Detroit; conceptual design for an equestrian center in Northwest Detroit and a reflection garden on Detroit Mercy's McNichols Campus. DCDC has worked on more than 30 projects and initiatives in the past few years, which included contributions from Detroit Mercy architecture students through the co-operative education program. In addition, the SACD co-op program is the second oldest in the nation and generates many hours of work on real projects around the world, many of them in Detroit.

**Detroit Mercy Law** is also committed to advancing social justice within metro Detroit. Each year, students provide more than 35,000 hours of pro bono legal services to the community through the externship and clinic programs. The externship program provides support to nonprofit and government employers. The clinic program provides pro bono legal services to under-resourced metro-Detroit residents and communities in the areas of appellate veterans law, conviction integrity, criminal trial, environmental law, family law, federal pro se legal assistance, arts and entertainment law, immigration law, international patent law, juvenile appellate, trademark and entrepreneurship, and veterans law.

Through the College of Business Administration, **The Center for Social Entrepreneurship** helps launch new business ventures that strengthen society, and provides seed money through the Social Innovation Fund, which Social Entrepreneurship students help to allocate. Additionally, the center will soon launch a new student consultancy, in which business students will provide technical analysis and advice to start-ups and other small businesses in the community.

Detroit Mercy's **Institute for Advanced Continuing Dental Education** offers more than 140 continuing education courses annually for oral health professionals across the globe, including free continuing education courses to support practitioners in managing stress and mental health.

From July 2023 through Dec. 14, 2024, the **Detroit Mercy Dental Center** completed 107,010 patient visits, which included $614,458.43 in uncompensated care. Additional under-reimbursed care was provided through Medicaid rates made possible via institutional support of $5,094,147, state support of $1.5 million and federal cost-based reimbursement of $76,266.

**Detroit Mercy Dental** also received a special appropriation from the state of $2.62 million to support dental education and provide oral care to individuals and communities in need. Students participated in various outreach initiatives throughout the year, which is vital to broadening access to care for those who need it most. There are 11 clinical

service-learning programs that reach a diverse range of patients. Through these programs, students facilitated 15,923 patient visits, addressing the healthcare needs of 9,861 unique patients.

The **School Psychology program** received a $472,750 Michigan Department of Education grant to address the school psychologist shortage and expand critical mental health services. Partnering with Boys and Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan, Psychology faculty, students and alumni helped establish the Mentally Fit Program focused on youth mental health, which served 1,496 individuals in 2024.

First-year **Civil and Architectural Engineering** students recently conducted a comprehensive building assessment of the Urban League of Detroit and Southeastern Michigan for Engineering 1050. This work is the first part of a larger initiative made possible by a recent $3.79-million award from the Department of Energy's Renew America's Nonprofits grant program. The program will enlist UDM students and faculty to assist 13 nonprofits in Detroit and Southeastern Michigan in reducing their carbon footprint, helping to build a more sustainable future for the region.

## Community Service & Advocacy

A Detroit Mercy education is driven by the tenets of our founders, the Jesuits and the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, and supports academic rigor informed by a contemplative mind and heart, moving the virtue of compassion into action through its teaching, research and service. Contemporary questions of ethics and justice, while attentive to justice issues that are specific to metro-Detroit, infuse this work. Emphasis on relationality is paramount. Courses and co-curricular activities train students to study, critically evaluate, and apply ethics in their respective fields. Detroit Mercy's vision is to shape moral and creative leaders for today and tomorrow who make a difference in the community.

To that end, new first-year students engage in a four-day program called **Prologues, Transitions and Viewpoints**. Before classes start, students work with faculty to learn how to succeed academically, they participate in activities that create a sense of connectedness with other students and the community, and are introduced to Detroit's vibrant neighborhoods, social and cultural environments through projects with residents.

**Service in the City** is a University Ministry program where students commit to weekly tutoring at local schools and after-school programs. Students gather at monthly reflections, connecting direct experiences to educational justice issues in Detroit.

The **University's libraries** hold a combined collection of nearly 2 million items, which include print and electronic books and journals, films on DVD and in streaming format, government documents, databases and archival materials. The McNichols Campus Library has been designated the Dudley Randall Literary Landmark by the American Library Association. The University Archives is home to several special collections, including the Black Abolitionist Archive, the Padre Guadalupe Carney Latin American Solidarity Archive, and the Fr. Edward J. Dowling, S.J., Marine Historical Collection.

The **Titan Equity Nourish Network (TENN)** finds solutions to challenges in the Detroit food system by engaging student passion and community wisdom. The program provided opportunities for more than 250 students to address immediate needs and engage in critical thinking about the systemic causes of these challenges. TENN is run by a team of seven student staff, seven interns, and 10 regular student leaders, and engaged 240 additional volunteers who provided more than 1,567 hours of service. TENN partnered with neighborhood organizations and businesses such as the Princeton Street Block Club, Make Food Not Waste and the Theresa Maxis Apartments.

In summer, the **College of Engineering & Science** hosts educational camps and pre-college programs on technology, AI, cybersecurity and a teacher bootcamp that assists high school teachers with integrating microelectronics and robotics into their lessons.

The **College of Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences** launched the Discover Detroit Series to engage students in the city's cultural, sports, historical and art scenes.

Through a grant from the Ford Motor Company Fund, Detroit Mercy's **Institute for Leadership & Service** supported 13 faculty-student teams that created service-learning projects in which 10 student leaders coordinated projects that allowed 432 Detroit Mercy students to serve more than 7,578 individuals in our community.

## Cultural, Spiritual & Athletic Activities

A Jesuit and Mercy education attends to the whole person in the context of the human community and the wider community of Earth. A holistic approach to education aims for healthy growth and development of mind, body, emotions, spirit, and community in ways that are creative and inviting of all people, people of other traditions, those who are atheist, agnostic, or with no religious tradition. As a campus community, efforts are made to provide space for non-Christian religious gatherings and to further encourage inter-religious understanding, appreciation, and events.

**University Ministry** offers Catholic, ecumenical and interfaith programs to engage students in experiences of community, prayer, action and reflection. This includes programs such as weekly faith sharing, retreats, daily liturgies, weekly Jummah prayer, student leadership formation, spiritual accompaniment one-on-one or as groups, meals & faith conversations, traditional Catholic prayers such as adoration and praise & worship, and special events with interfaith speakers.

Groups of students sponsored by University Ministry attend Mercy, Jesuit and Interfaith conferences that create awareness about social justice issues and advocacy for current issues, especially those that affect the most marginalized. Detroit Mercy annually sends a group to the largest Catholic justice gathering in the nation called the Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice in Washington, D.C. Several of our students have shared their stories on stage or facilitated panels or workshops at the gathering.

*What's the Tea with Ministry* is a podcast that brings mission-centered conversation, storytelling, and connection to the Detroit Mercy community and beyond. Interviewing students, faculty, staff and community partners to highlight the mission and values of the University and keeping our Jesuit, Mercy, Catholic identity alive.

The University sponsors **17 NCAA Division I varsity sports** for men and women; 13 of the Titan teams compete in the Horizon League; men's lacrosse competes in the Northeast Conference; women's lacrosse is in the Mid-American Conference; and men's and women's fencing are the Central Collegiate Fencing Conference. Our student-athletes have gone on to success in all the major league sports and on the world stage in Olympics and other international competitions.

# College and School Initiatives

## College of Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences

The Department of Religious Studies hosted the inaugural Robert and Judy Bruttell lecture attended by community members and the University community. *Awakening Democracy: Social Ethics in Our Time* featured Robert P. Jones, president of Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI).

Detroit Mercy Theatre Company's production of *A Year with Frog and Toad* won six Wilde Awards, and *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged) [revised] [again],* was selected to represent the Midwest at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. A Black Box Theatre, designed to be a community resource, will open in the Student Union in fall 2025.

The Psychology Clinic serves approximately 300 clients annually and the Counseling Clinic serves approximately 250 individuals each year, providing no-cost counseling to Detroit and greater Wayne Country residents who otherwise would not have access to mental health services.

Since 2014, Rx for Reading Detroit has raised more than $140,000 and distributed 245,000 new and gently used children's books in Detroit and surrounding communities. Rx for Reading is staffed by Detroit Mercy students and volunteers and works to expand access to quality children's books and support low-income families in reading with their children.

## College of Engineering & Science

The ReBUILDetroit Program concludes this year after a decade of advancing biomedical research training in Detroit. Designed to support underrepresented and financially disadvantaged undergraduate scholars, the program aimed to position Detroit as a leader in biomedical education and research. Over its 10-year duration, the program successfully recruited 182 scholars, contributing to the development of a diverse and skilled biomedical workforce.

The McShane Maker Space & Collaboratory is now in use. The space serves as a collaborative hub for all students, providing access to essential equipment and tools under expert guidance. There will also be various community apprentice programs offered through the maker space. The McShane Maker Space & Collaboratory offers students a space to study, learn and apply technology in real-world scenarios, enabling them to turn ideas into prototypes and products, bringing an entrepreneurial edge to their engineering experience.

The College has received $400,000 through The National Science Foundation's Enabling Partnerships to Increase Innovation Capacity (EPIIC) grant to foster collaboration between universities to strengthen research infrastructure in emerging fields such as artificial intelligence, autonomy and cybersecurity.

Funded by more than $575,000 from the U.S. Department of Defense, the College is expanding the SCALE K-12 Project into Michigan. Its goal is to develop lessons for K-12 students to increase student interest in microelectronics.

Working with faculty from Michigan State University on a project supported with $70,000 by Apple, the College is helping Detroit teachers introduce students to the field of computer science through iOS Application Development.

## College of Health Professions & McAuley School of Nursing

The College of Health Professions (CHP) and McAuley School of Nursing (MSON) partner with health systems and medical centers throughout Michigan to provide clinical placements and internships to more than 900 students in undergraduate Nursing, and graduate Executive Leadership, Nurse Practitioner, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Nurse Anesthesia, doctor of Nursing Practice, Physician Assistant, Healthcare Operations Management and Health Information Management programs.

## College of Business Administration

**The College of Business Administration (CBA)** is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), which places the College among the top 5% of business schools in the world. In addition, *U.S. News & World Report's Best Colleges* edition ranked the undergraduate business program in Entrepreneurship No. 18 in the nation, the undergraduate business program in Management No. 24 in the nation, and the undergraduate program in Finance No. 36. *U.S. News & World Report* also ranked the CBA No. 17 among graduate Management programs, and No. 13 among graduate Management programs online.

Through the Charlton Center for Responsible Investing, students manage a real portfolio, publish an investment newsletter, compete in international competitions, and interact with industry professionals. Recent speakers have included the President of the U.S. Export-Import Bank.

The Center for Practice & Research in Management & Ethics (PRIME) hosts a sustainability competition, a business ethics essay contest, and speakers who have included the founder of the United Nations Global Compact, the director of Counterintelligence for the FBI, a U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity commissioner, and the presidents of Campbell Soup, TrueCar and Cardinal Health.

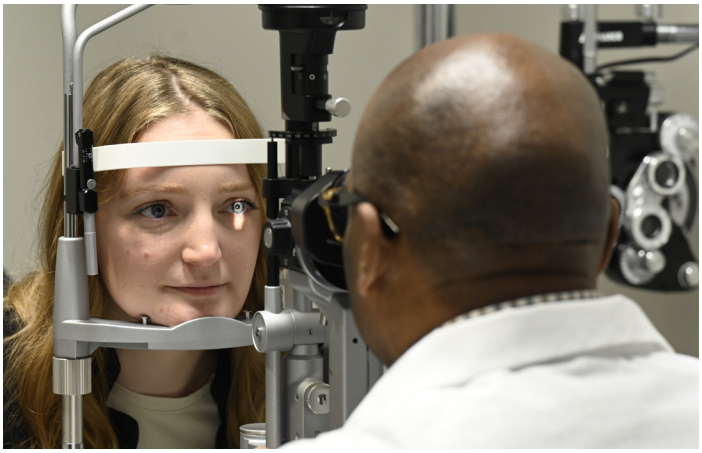
## School of Law

The School of Law is fully immersed in metro Detroit and its Riverfront Campus is located in the heart of downtown Detroit. The Detroit Mercy Law graduating class of 2023 had an overall employment rate of 91 percent in legal and professional positions with law firms, the judiciary, businesses, government and public interest organizations across the United States and Canada.

In addition, the School is committed to increasing access to legal education for the community. The faculty provide free legal education programming to the community throughout the year. Each year, the admissions team and student organizations collaborate to support programming for local high school and college students. Law also partners with the AccessLex Institute to offer the LexScholars program to applicants from underrepresented groups in the legal profession, providing students with additional preparation and academic support prior to starting law school.

## School of Optometry

The University of Detroit Mercy Eye Institute opened on Detroit Mercy's Novi Campus in April 2024. The School of Optometry received pre-accreditation approval from the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) and will welcome its first class in the fall of 2025. The Optometry team is committed to providing primary eye care, including comprehensive annual eye exams, red eye exams and contact lenses and offers a large selection of frames.



The Eye Institute also provides more advanced care for patients with chronic ocular diseases such as glaucoma and diabetes. It also offers pediatric eye care, binocular vision service, cornea and specialty contact lens service and low-vision service. It holds a grant to provide qualifying patients with low vision aids.

It accepts almost all vision insurances (including Medicaid) and most major medical insurances and serves the community by providing uninsured patients low cost or free care.

Importantly, it serves as a teaching and research facility for the University of Detroit Mercy School of Optometry, which will welcome its inaugural class in fall 2025. Having received pre-accreditation status from the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education, the school plans to seat a class of 44 students.

2024 - 2025

# FAST FACTS

## OUR STUDENTS

FALL 2024

**5,587** Total Enrollment

**3,422** Undergraduate

**931** Graduate

**1,234** Professional

**72%** Full-time

**28%** Part-time

**57%** Women

**43%** Men

## STUDENT DIVERSITY

**9%** Black/African American

**7%** Asian

**7%** Hispanic/Latino

**25%** International

**7%** Chose not to report

**2%** Multirace

**43%** White

## STATISTICS

NON-PROFESSIONAL LEVEL

**87%** Commuters

**13%** Residents

**98%** Undergraduates Receiving Financial Aid (full-time)

## PERMANENT RESIDENCE

**68%** Michigan

**89%** Metro-Detroit

**7%** Out-of-state

**25%** International

## FACULTY

**212** Full-time

**179** Part-time

PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS

**99** Full-time

**131** Part-time

FULL-TIME FACULTY WITH TERMINAL DEGREE

**93%**

STUDENT-FACULTY RATIO

**12:1**

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE

**19**

## ALUMNI

**116,211** Degrees Awarded

**60%** Living in Detroit

**70%** Living in Michigan

**89,984** Living Alumni

## ALUMNI COMPOSITE

**2%** Architecture & Community Development

**16%** Business Administration

**9%** Dental

**16%** Engineering & Science

**19%** Health Professions

**12%** Law

**25%** Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences

**5%** Other graduate degrees

## AFFORDABILITY

**$189.7 MILLION** Total tuition and fees revenue

**$32,948** Undergraduate tuition

**$59.9 MILLION** Institutional scholarships and grants disbursed

04/2025